

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated May 7, 2003. Claims 1-44 are currently pending in this application, and of these claims 1, 14, 28, 34-37, and 41 are independent. Claims 45-46 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-13, 34, and 37-40 are allowed. Claims 14, 28, 35, 36, and 41 are amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 15, 17-19, 27-31, 33, 35-36, 41, 42 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO9000808 (Brodie et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,371,433 (Horne). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection as explained below.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-13, 34, and 37-40, all of which include a limitation that the Examiner acknowledges is not taught in the prior art. In particular, the Examiner acknowledges that the prior art does not teach or suggest a method wherein the photoresist columns are removed after forming the resistive coating layer thereover.

All rejected independent claims have been amended to include the limitation of "removing the photoresist material from within the sidewalls." Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 14-33, 35-36, and 41-44 patentably distinguish the art of record.

Claims 1-44 are believed to define allowable subject matter. An early and favorable examination is earnestly solicited. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Appl. No. 09/652,630
Amdt. Dated November 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2003

Atty. Docket No. 100718.418 (MIC-76)

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0219 the required fee of \$950 to cover the cost of the requested three-month extension of time. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper; however, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, that may be due in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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